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ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY ASPECTS OF THE FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS: FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS

Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Djamel MOKTEFI (Algeria)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. At its 4th plenary meeting, on 19 September 1997, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its fifty-second session the item entitled "Administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations: financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations" and to allocate it to the Fifth Committee.

2. The Fifth Committee considered the item at its 3rd, 4th, and 8th meetings, on 30 September and 1 and 13 October 1997. Statements and observations made in the course of the Committee's consideration of the item are reflected in the relevant summary records (A/C.5/52/SR.3, 4 and 8).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

Financing of the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi, Italy

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on the management of peacekeeping assets: surplus asset storage facilities and mission start-up kits at the United Nations Logistics Base, Brindisi (A/50/907);

(b) Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the management of peacekeeping assets: surplus asset storage facilities and mission start-up kits at the United Nations Logistics Base, Brindisi (A/50/985);

(c) Report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the Office of Internal Oversight Services (A/51/803);

(d) Report of the Secretary-General on the financing of the United Nations Logistics Base, Brindisi (A/51/905);

(e) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the comments of the Joint Inspection Unit on the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi (A/52/380);

(f) Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the management of peacekeeping assets: surplus asset storage facilities and mission start-up kits at the United Nations Logistics Base, Brindisi (A/52/407);

Management of peacekeeping assets: field assets control system

(g) Report of the Secretary-General (A/51/957);

(h) Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/52/407) (see also (f) above).

II. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTION A/C.5/52/L.3

4. At the 8th meeting, on 13 October, the representative of Mexico introduced a draft resolution entitled "Administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations: financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations" (A/C.5/52/L.3), submitted by the Chairman on the basis of informal consultations.

5. At the same meeting, the Fifth Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.5/52/L.3 without a vote (see para. 6).

III. RECOMMENDATION OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE

6. The Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations

The General Assembly,

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FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS LOGISTICS BASE AT BRINDISI, ITALY

Recalling section XIV of its resolution 49/233 A of 23 December 1994,

Recalling also its decision 50/500 of 17 September 1996 and section VIII of its resolution 51/218 E of 17 June 1997 on the financing of the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi, Italy,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the financing of the United Nations Logistics Base,[1] and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[2] the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the audit of the United Nations Logistics Base,[3] the comments of the Joint Inspection Unit thereon[4] and the views expressed by Member States in the Fifth Committee,[5]

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on the financing of the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi, Italy;[1]

2. Also takes note of the observations and recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;[2]

3. Further takes note of the cost estimates proposed by the Secretary-General[6] and recommended by the Advisory Committee[7] for the maintenance of the United Nations Logistics Base for the period from 1 July 1996 to 30 June 1997, amounting to 7,875,000 United States dollars gross (7,375,200 dollars net), the ad hoc financing of which will be reflected in the respective performance reports of the peacekeeping operations for the period from 1 July 1996 to 30 June 1997;

4. Notes that, according to the recommendation of the Advisory Committee, a more precise cost-benefit analysis should be carried out,[8] requests the Secretary-General to prepare a comprehensive cost-benefit analysis on the operation of the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi, for consideration by the General Assembly during the first part of its resumed fifty-second session, and requests the Advisory Committee to assist the Secretary-General in this regard by providing more specific guidance for conducting such an analysis;

5. Requests the Secretary-General, without prejudice to the decision of the General Assembly on the future of the Logistics Base, to make proposals, as

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[1] A/51/905.

[2] A/52/407.

[3] A/51/803.

[4] A/52/380, annex.

[5] A/C.5/52/SR.3 and 4.

[6] A/50/907.

[7] A/50/985.

[8] A/52/407, paras. 4 and 18.

appropriate, for different sources or modes of financing, including self-financing mechanisms, and to consider the possibility of expanding the use of the Logistics Base to other agencies and programmes of the United Nations, such as the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the World Food Programme, as recommended by the Advisory Committee in paragraph 18 of its report,[2] and to make this information available so as to enable the Assembly to take a decision on the future of the Logistics Base, in the context of a coherent strategy for logistic support, during the first part of its resumed fifty-second session;

6. Authorizes the Secretary-General to enter into commitments in the amount of 4,207,500 dollars for the clearance of the backlog situation in the Logistics Base;

7. Requests the Secretary-General to inform the General Assembly during the first part of its resumed fifty-second session on the liquidation of the clearance of the backlog referred to in his report;[1]

8. Authorizes the Secretary-General to enter into commitments on a monthly basis in the amount of 812,100 dollars for the maintenance of the Logistics Base for the period from 16 October 1997 to 30 June 1998;

9. Decides that the additional appropriation, as may be required, will be taken up in the context of the performance reports on peacekeeping operations for that period;

10. Authorizes the Secretary-General to provide for a civilian establishment consisting of ten Professional, six Field Service and twenty-eight locally recruited staff;

11. Endorses the recommendation made by the Advisory Committee in paragraph 13 of its report[2] that the level of staffing should be reviewed in the light of the volume of operations, and requests the Secretary-General to provide this information to the General Assembly during the first part of its resumed fifty-second session;

12. Encourages the Secretary-General to use existing audit capability to provide the functions referred to in paragraph 34 of his report;[1]

13. Decides to refer to the issue of resourcing policy as proposed in section VIII of the report of the Secretary-General in the context of its deliberations on the future of the Logistics Base, as referred to in paragraph 5 of the present resolution;

14. Approves the policies proposed in sections X and XI of the report of the Secretary-General;

15. Requests the Secretary-General to provide detailed information on the communications relay system and functions of the Logistics Base;

II

MANAGEMENT OF PEACEKEEPING ASSETS: FIELD ASSETS CONTROL SYSTEM

Recalling section VIII, paragraph 4, of its resolution 51/218 E of 17 June 1997,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the field assets control system[9] and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[2] as well as the views expressed by Member States in the Fifth Committee,[5]

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on the field assets control system;[9]

2. Also takes note of the observations and recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;[2]

3. Endorses the proposal for the development and implementation of the field assets control system described in paragraphs 4 to 22 of the report of the Secretary-General;

4. Takes note of the intention of the Secretary-General to continue to develop the field mission logistics system described in paragraphs 25 and 26 of his report, and decides to consider this question during the second part of its resumed fifty-second session.

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[9] A/51/957.